

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PINT, PO
SUBJ: MELO ANTUNES RADIO INTERVIEW ON ECONOMIC PROGRAM

REF: (A) LISBON 981 (NOTAL)

(B) LISBON 1069

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(C) LISBON 1140

1. SUMMARY: MELO ANTUNES REJECTED ALL EXISTING MODELS FOR NEW PORTUGUESE SOCIETY, WHOSE EXACT FORM IS YET TO BE DETERMINED. HE SAID ACCENT SHOULD BE ON MODELS OF CONSUMPTION OVERFORMS OF PRODUCTION. PROGRESSIVE AUTONOMY. BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, FROM SUPER-POWERS SHOULD MEAN NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT. NEW TYPE OF ALLIANCE WITH THIRD WORLD, ESPECIALLY ARABS, ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW (SEE REFTELS (B) AND (C)) ABOUT NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAM (REFTEL (A)), MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MAJOR MELO ANTUNES FURTHER CLARIFIED HIS VIEWS ON NATURE OF FUTURE PORTUGUESE SOCIETY. INTERVIEW WAS BROADCAST ON MARCH 1 EMISSORA NACIONAL MORNING RADIO SHOW.

HIGHLIGHTS:

3. "NEW TYPE OF SOCIETY"-ANTUNES DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAM IS NOTHING MORE THAN COPY OF EASTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST MODELS. INTENDED BREAK WITH INHERITED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORMS ON PATH TOWARD MORE HUMAN SYSTEM MEANS REJECTION OF NOT ONLY CAPITALISM, BUT NEOCAPITALISM, WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AS WELL AS EXISTING SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES. IN HIS OPINION, SOCIALISM IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN AN EFFECTIVELY PLURALISTIC SOCIETY.

4. ANTI-MONOPOLISTIC STRUGGLE IS WAGED NOT ONLY BY STATE INTERVENTION IN AREAS OF BIG CAPITAL DOMINATION, BUT MAINTAINING BROAD AREAS OF AUTONOMY IN PRODUCTIVE PROCESS FOR "CERTAIN LEVELS" OF POPULATION. THERE IS AS YET NO FINISHED MODEL OF THIS SOCIETY READY TO PRESENT, JUST AS THERE ARE NO EXISTING REAL MODELS. FINISHED MODEL WILL RESULT FROM DEBATE ABOUT CONSUMPTION SOCIETY OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES AND THEIR CURRENT "CRISIS OF CIVILIZATION". BOTH IRRATIONALITY OF CAPITALIST SYSTEM AS WELL AS BUREAUCRATIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM AND PUBLIC LIFE OF SOCIALIST SOCIETIES HAVE TO BE DENOUNCED.

5. " ACCENT ON CONSUMPTION"- ANTUNES SAID TRANSITION ECONOMIC PROGRAM WILL BE LOST IF MEASURES NOT TAKEN TO CONTROL BIG ECONOMIC GROUPS. EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN WILL BE ENDED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATIZATION OF ECONOMIC LIFE AND CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM IN WHICH WORKERS WILL "COME TO DISPOSE" OF MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NATURAL PRODUCTS. DEBATE WILL BE OVER STRATEGY TO USE TO REACH THIS GOAL.

6. ANTUNES FEELS ACCENT SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON FORMS OF PRODUCTION BUT INSTEAD ON MODELS OF CONSUMPTION. HE SPECIFICALLY FORESAW PORTUGUESE WEEKENDS OF THE FUTURE MOVING

FROM THE PRIVATE CARE TOWARD A LARGER "COLLECTIVIZATION OF LIFE,"
BASED ON IMPROVED NETWORK OF COLLECTIVE TRANSPORT AND OF MASS
TOURIST UNDERTAKINGS.

7. "NON-ALIGNMENT"- REFERRING TO HIS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED
THEME OF "PROGRESSIVE AUTONOMY FROM THE SUPERPOWERS" (SUB-
PARA 1E, REFTEL (C)), ANTUNES SAID THIS WOULD BE IN THE
POLITICAL AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC FIELD. HE ESPECIALLY
REFERRED TO PORTUGAL'S PLACE IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN. MEDI-
TERRANEAN AREA HAS A DETERMINED HISTORICAL FUNCTION WHICH COULD
BECOME A SPECIAL ROLE OF EASING POSSIBLE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO POWERS "WHO PURSUE OBJECTIVES VERY DIFFERENT FROM OURS."
THIS MEANS THAT "WE SHOULD FOLLOW FORMS OF NEUTRALITY AND
INTERNATIONAL NONALIGNMENT WHICH WILL MAKE US EVER LESS
DEPENDENT."

8. ANTUNES LATER ADDED THAT COUNTRY CAN ONLY ADVANCE ITS
DEVELOPMENT IF IT LESSENS ITS DEPENDENCE ON IMPERIALISM.
"WE HAVE TO ESTABLISH A NEW TYPE OF ALLIANCE WITH THE COUNTRIES
OF THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD, AND I CAN PARTICIPATE THAT SUCH
MEASURES WILL SHORTLY BE TAKEN IN RELATION OF THE ARAB
COUNTRIES."

9. ANTUNES ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT IN TRANSITION PHASE WORKING
CLASS SHOULD RENOUNCE CERTAIN FORMS OF STRUGGLE, IN SUB-
ORDINATING CLASS STRUGGLE TO MORE IMPORTANT THINGS SUCH AS
AUTONOMY IN RELATION TO GREAT POWERS.

10. COMMENT: IN THIS SERIES OF COMMENTARIES ON ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROGRAM, ANTUNES SEEMS TO BE MAKING EVER CLEARER
HIS POLITICAL VIEWS IF NOT HIS ECONOMIC EXPERTISE. ANTUNES,
HOWEVER, IS A MASTER OF LOW KEY CONFUSED RHETORIC AND WE DO
NOT ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO HIS PUBLIC POLITICAL
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